

LEADER

The Air Force ROTC Information Source

December 1999



2000 AND BEYOND



You pick the caption

Okay, cadets, it's your turn again. Come up with a catchy caption for this photo and e-mail it to the Leader.

Contents

December 1999 Vol. 19 No. 4

1

Holiday Greetings from commanders

2-4

NEWS

ABC finishes first class

Air Force ROTC commander visits Aggies

Captain earns second Meritorious Service Medal

5-9

FEATURES

Running for the right reasons

Cadets display service before self

Cadet explores space

10-11

Point of View

Air Force Doctrine and you

12-14

DETACHMENT WISH LISTS

15-19

AROUND THE NATION

20

NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS POEM

21

CORE VALUES

Leader

Editorial Staff

**Air Force Officer
Accession and Training
Schools Commander**
Brig. Gen. John M. Spiegel

**Air Force ROTC
Commander**
Col. Wolf Gesch

**Director, Air University
Public Affairs**
Lt. Col. Bob East

Managing Editor
Karen Fleming-Michael

Editor
Senior Airman
Heather Nagel

This funded Air Force ROTC news magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Leader* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by Air University Public Affairs, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The *Leader* staff reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. All written material to be considered for publication must be sent via e-mail.

The *Leader* e-mail address is: leader@maxwell.af.mil

Leader submissions should arrive at Air University Public Affairs by the first of the month prior to the month being published. Photos must be mailed to: 55 LeMay Plaza Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6334. For more information, call (334) 953-2827 or DSN 493-2827.

**Happy Holidays
from the *Leader*
editorial staff**

Cover:
Computer design
by Senior Airman
Heather Nagel

On behalf of the entire Air Force Officer Accession and Training School's faculty, it is my privilege to wish you a wonderful holiday season and a great new year.

I trust you will take time off to relax and enjoy the holidays with your family, friends and loved ones. Wherever your travels may take you, be sure to be safe and return ready and refreshed for a new year.

I'd also like to thank you for your commitment, enthusiasm and diligence during the past year. You can be proud of your accomplishments—the Leader's pages are packed with just a few samples.

Time and again, you demonstrate you are the best young people our country produces. Sophocles said, "success is dependent on effort," and you demonstrate your efforts on a daily basis in each of your detachments. Because of that, I know you will be successful leaders.

Finally, I urge you to keep pursuing excellence in everything you do. The new millennium will bring new hopes, new challenges and new opportunities.

Your AFOATS staff and I wish you a joyous holiday and look forward to a rewarding new year with you.

—Brig. Gen. John Spiegel, Headquarters AFOATS commander



During this holiday season, we at Headquarters ROTC extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to cadets and cadre at each detachment.

The holiday season is a time for reflection on the blessings we share. We are living in fast-paced, dynamic times. Advances in technology help us perform our jobs better and with more precision than ever. Coupled with that, the education you are currently receiving is preparing you to meet headlong the opportunities and challenges your career will bring—this holds true for both cadets and cadre.

The new year is also a wonderful time to examine where we've been and where we hope to go

next. This might be a good time for us to look once again at why we have chosen to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and how we can better prepare ourselves for future service.

Because of the hectic pace of the season, we need to be aware of the consequences of the quick decisions we make. I challenge each of you to celebrate this holiday season joyfully and responsibly, so you can return to your detachments refreshed and invigorated for the second half of the school year.

The ROTC staff and I wish you a wonderful Yuletide and a fruitful New Year. Happy Holidays to you all.

—Col. Wolf Gesch, ROTC commander



Aerospace Basic Course finishes first classes

By 1st Lt. Roger Burdette
Aerospace Basic Course



Parts of the Air Force's new Aerospace Basic Course frustrated 2nd Lt. Gina Tracey, "to say the least," she said.

Tracey, 21, a graduate of Air Force ROTC at the University of Virginia, is a finance officer assigned to Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif. However, during the last week of the four-week Aerospace Basic Course held at Maxwell Air Force Base, she played the roles of support group commander, security forces commander, chief of wing operations plans, logistics planner and distributor of combat reports.

The unfamiliar roles produced frustration, but also appreciation, she said. "We learned a lot about how all aspects of the Air Force conglomerate into one unit," Tracey said.

Tracey is one of 695 lieutenants and select civilians who graduated from ABC Oct. 8. The class was the second to graduate since ABC opened its doors Aug. 8. The



first class included 290 students. "I think it (ABC) may prove in the future to be one of the most important things our Air Force has done for you and for the Air Force in general," Lt. Gen. David McIlvoy, Air Education and Training Command vice commander, told students at the Oct. 8 graduation ceremony.

The course is designed to help new Air Force officers and civilians in the Air Force's PALACE Acquire Program to comprehend their roles as "airmen" who understand what aerospace capabilities contribute to war fighting along with the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, ABC officials said. The PALACE Acquire Program is designed to attract men and women with management potential to careers as federal employees with the Air Force.

The ABC curriculum focuses on issues such as the Air Force's core competencies; aerospace theory, doctrine and strategy; current and future aerospace systems and capabilities; and planning and executing joint aerospace operations. Values and ethics principles are interwoven throughout the course.

The course culminates with "Operation Blue Thunder," a four-day exercise in which students run a wing operations center and an air operations center. To run the wing operations center portion of Blue Thunder, students "deploy" to a tent city built on Maxwell AFB specifically for that purpose. It was during Blue Thunder that Tracey worked her five positions.

To add to the realism of Blue Thunder, students in the second class were "deployed" to the tent city aboard C-130s belonging to the Air Force Reserve's 908th Air-lift Wing at Maxwell.



"It's really an outstanding training opportunity for them to be exposed to this level of the application of airpower at this stage in their careers," said Col. Bill Mathis, commander of the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell. Mathis was one of 18 officers who played the role of joint forces air component commander during Blue Thunder.

"I think they'll find the joint air operations center portion of the exercise very beneficial because as they go into their jobs, they'll hopefully have a better understanding of why they have to do some of the things they're asked to do at the squadron and wing level," Mathis added.

"You are the beginning of a change in our 21st-century Air Force," Lt. Col. Douglas Lengenfelder, ABC commandant, told the students at the recent graduation. "You will be challenged as you go out in our Air Force because human nature, like physics, tells us change is difficult. You must hold the faith, be the torchbearer and continue your education in your profession of arms."

The next ABC class begins in January. In 2000, the school plans to graduate 780 students; in 2001, 1,712 students. By 2002, approximately 4,700 students are expected to attend ABC each year.

Air Force ROTC commander visits Aggies

COLLEGE STATION, TX—Air Force ROTC Commander, Col. Wolf Gesch has a better understanding of what it is like to be an Aggie, after a recent four-day visit with Det. 805 at Texas A & M University.

“It’s important to show the Air Force ROTC commander what the detachment and the corps of cadets are about, since we are so different from any other detachment in the country” said Cadet Andy Hale, Det. 805 wing commander. “The Air Force ROTC detachment is a unit within the corps of cadets, a military structured student organization that has more than 2,000 cadets, larger than any other military institute other than the U.S. service academies.”

According to Hale the detachment trains with the corps of cadets daily and Air Force instruction is taught during leadership laboratory on Thursdays.

Gesch toured the university, the George Bush Library,

he held a commander’s call during LLAB and observed the corps of cadets’ daily routine and obstacle course run. He also observed the corps of cadets Fall Review and reviewed the corps of cadets march in at the football game.

“It’s my full intent to give Colonel Gesch as much of an ‘Aggie’ experience as one could receive,” Hale said.

“We were privileged to have him speak to the entire cadet wing and to have him as our guest at LLAB. He really opened our eyes about some of the things the Air Force has in store for us for the future.

“I am really excited about what I’ve seen during my visit,” said Gesch. “I’ve seen some programs that I would like to see implemented at all detachments. It’s true that

you don’t understand what it is like to be an Aggie until you experience it. I’d like to thank Det. 805 and the Corps of Cadets for giving me that experience.”



Col. Wolf Gesch, ROTC commander, speaks to cadets after their completion of the obstacle course. (Courtesy photo)

Captain earns second Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Gen. Richard Schneider, Norwich University president, presented Capt. Linda Moschelle with the Meritorious Service Medal, first oak leaf cluster, before more than 200 cadets Sept. 28.

Moschelle earned the medal in recognition of her performance as a flight commander at Squadron Officer School and chief of Company Grade Officer Programs, Headquarters Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Moschelle is now using those same leadership skills to guide Norwich Air Force ROTC cadets as the detachment’s commandant of cadets.

The ceremony reinforced the importance of recognizing unit personnel while showcasing customs and courtesies.





Running for the right reasons

ROTC participates in 3rd Annual Air Force Marathon



I can't think of very many things that are worth prying yourself out of bed for at 4:45 a.m. Whether the alarm is blaring beeps, buzzes or is music, it's just not a welcomed sound at that hour.

I pondered this as I rubbed my bleary eyes on the morning of Sept. 18, suddenly remembering that I had slept on the floor of my commandant of cadets' condo in Dayton, Ohio, with nine other cadets and a newly-commissioned lieutenant. Not much sleep had followed our spaghetti dinner and motivating mini-film festival of *Full Metal Jacket* and *Prefontaine*. What, you may ask, could have possibly enticed me to sit up on my sleeping bag and strap on a pair of running shoes at an hour that anyone who has never been to field training would call ungodly?

Suffice to say the 3rd Annual Air Force Marathon was worth it. A C-17 glided over the starting line with the sun following shortly behind it as 320 relay teams, and thousands of individual runners, some of whom were even in wheelchairs, prepared for a 26-mile journey through and around the streets of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

I had come as a member of one of three teams from Det. 640. I was set to run the final leg of 6.7 miles for my team, so I had some time on my hands waiting for my turn. Normally I hate waiting around for things,



but the whole environment of the race was so encouraging it blew me away before I had even started running. This was the Air Force community at its very best.

Later, as I huffed and puffed, half-sprinting down the final stretch towards the finish line, I realized that it is an incredible feeling to have a thousand people who have never seen you before cheering you on like they really want you to win...or just to succeed.

As my classmate Jessica Luckett put it, "I was never bored because there was always someone who needed encouraging. I definitely want to do it again next year; the Air Force knows how to do it right."

On top of running times that we could be proud of, my fellow cadets and I (and our cadre) had the opportunity to bump into some old friends and make some new ones. We watched as an F-117 and several F-16s flew over, we got a chance to talk with Gen. George Babbitt, Air Force Material Command commander, and as if all that wasn't enough, it was an extraordinarily beautiful day.

Though small, the Air Force is a community of like-minded patriots, and the marathon seemed to bring out some of the things that we find so appealing about service to our country, in subtle yet wholesome ways. For those of you who would use fewer words to describe it, try these two: I can.

By Cadet Christopher Gardner
Det. 640, Miami University, Ohio

Start the year out running

On your marks, Get set, Go!

Det. 643 is off to a running start this year after participating in the annual Air Force Marathon at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 18. The 26-mile route, which started and ended at the Air Force Museum, took all runners on a

historical tour of the Wright-Peterson AFB area. A highlight of opening ceremonies was the Air Force Band's live performance of the National Anthem and the Air Force song.

The marathon included wheelchair racing, the traditional marathon and Ekiden-style relay racing. Aid stations were located along the course to help keep up the momentum of all runners.

Whether participants were in the race for competition or for fun, this year's marathon truly gave everyone a close-knit feeling towards each other and the Air Force.

The entire cadre and many of the cadets from the detachment took part in the marathon. Early in the morning, two relay teams and one cadre member took a flying start on the course. Each member of the relay team ran a portion of the marathon before exchanging the timer to the next runner.

"The Misfits," including newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Videt Norng, Cadets Jenner Torrence and Sarah Jensen and friend, Francis Chow, followed a detailed route throughout the Wright-Patterson and Fairborn area.

Following close behind were "The Wrinkled Raiders," including cadre members Col. Joseph Bebel, Capt. Victoria Gerken, Capt. Richard Baker and Tech. Sgt. Frank Wilder. Capt. James Fitch tested his endurance by completing the entire marathon on his own.

Also participating was an aide station of 14 cadets. The station, located at mile marker 19, provided words of encouragement and sports drinks for all weary runners.

The commitment and participation of the entire cadre has set the standard for all other detachments for the school year.

Their enthusiasm toward the detachment's first event for the school year, the marathon, only marks the beginning of an exciting and promising year for the cadets of Detachment 643.



Cadets display service before self

As well-trained citizens of the Air Force, it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of America's population, no matter what the circumstances are. We've all seen those television shows of grueling accidents where cars speed down the highway obliterating anything doomed in its path. Recently, two cadets experienced firsthand the unadulterated fierceness of motorists careening down the highway in efforts to avoid their own demise.

Cadets Paul Egbalic and Trevor Nolan were traveling on U.S. Highway 680 just before U.S. Highway 101, after a combat dining in. It was around 10:30 p.m. when they noticed faint blinking emergency lights ahead of them.

Rapidly advancing towards the flashing source of light, Nolan, the driver, realized it was a car stopped in the middle of the road, blocking two lanes, with a blown tire. The tire had exploded sending the vehicle into a spin. Nolan was forced to swerve and slam on his brakes to avoid the disabled car.

On impulse, hardly speaking to one another, Nolan and Egbalic tried to improve the already dangerous situation. The driver of the disabled car exited her vehicle and was telephoning the police.

Just then, a car that had obviously not seen the incapacitated vehicle until too late, swerved into the emergency lane where the woman on her cell phone was. As they watched the events unfold, Nolan and Egbalic feared she was pinned behind the car that was now embedded into the guardrail; however, the car had missed her by a few feet.

Another car traveling about 80 mph approached the accident scene, lost control, hit the car pinned to the guardrail and spun to the other end of the road. A dog in that car was thrown through the windshield and landed about 20 yards from the scene of the accident. The owner of the

dog ran onto the highway, risking her and her son's lives, as he followed her into the roadway.

The highway was unlit, and the only light offered was from the three damaged cars and oncoming traffic. Nolan and Egbalic went to each car to check for injuries. Egbalic stayed with the victims and took control of the scene as Nolan directed traffic to avoid further problems.

"The hardest part about directing this traffic was trying to get cars to go from four lanes to one while they approached at around 70 or 80 miles per hour," Nolan said.

A few motorists stopped to help. One man supplied road flares, while another moved the car with the blown out tire to the roadside.

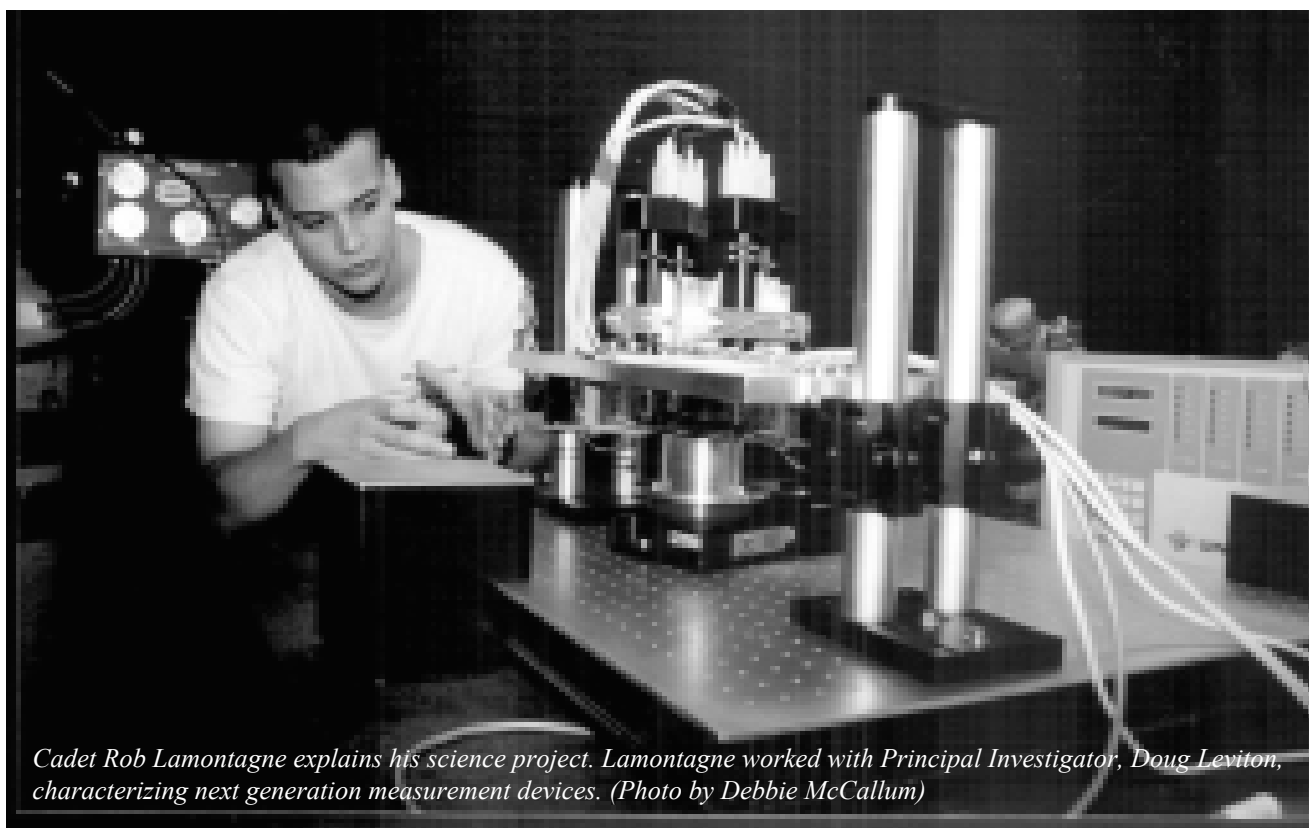
After about 10 minutes of chaos, seven California Highway Patrol cars, two ambulances and two fire trucks arrived. They asked Nolan and Egbalic to continue directing traffic.

"It was weird. The CHP officer came up to me and said 'Here, take my flashlight—keep directing these cars,'" Nolan said. "I guess it was Egbalic in his BDUs and I in my Air Force shirt that made him feel comfortable with it. I mean, we were directing cars for a good 15 to 20 minutes after the authorities had arrived."

Service before self, mixed with pure adrenaline, created strength that put a respect for life and duty toward others before the consideration of personal danger. As cadets, the learning of these core values is not just a memorization chore, but a code to live by that applies in all aspects of life, in every circumstance.

Cadets Nolan and Egbalic displayed it best at their own personal expense that night of the accident. They took initiative and carried out the expectations of the military to the civilian world.

By Cadet Jessica Rink
Det. 45, San Jose State University, Calif.



Cadet explores space

What could be a more lofty ambition than becoming an Air Force officer or even an Air Force pilot? How about really shooting for the stars and becoming an astronaut?

In fact, that is the goal of ROTC cadet Rob Lamontagne, a senior at the University of New Hampshire. Lamontagne, a mechanical engineering major, took one more step toward attaining his childhood dream by attending NASA Academy 1999. He and 22 other students, who had the "right stuff," were selected for the program hosted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Center, Greenbelt, Md., this summer.

NASA Academy 1999 is a 10-week-long program implemented in the summer of 1993. The program's goal is to involve students in the space agency by introducing them to the many aspects of the space

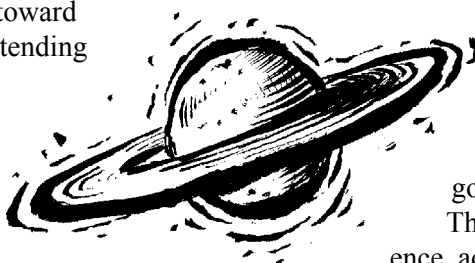
industry. Dr. Gerald Soffen, university programs office director, started the program to introduce "new blood" to the space agency in hopes of building future leaders.

Lamontagne and his peers were introduced to many of the facets of the space world. Topics included business, politics, finance, science and technology,

NASA, the Air Force and private organizations. Discussion was based on how each of these facets interrelates with their future plans, visions and goals.

The academy was a full-time experience, according to Lamontagne.

"I had a great opportunity to learn what the space industry is about; however, the most rewarding part of the summer program was living with 22 of the nation's "best and brightest" students who share a similar passion for space and my same desire



to learn,” he said. The 23 academy students lived in a sorority house at the University of Maryland, which was rented for the summer by NASA.

A typical day

Carpool to the center with other students, have breakfast and then work with his principle investigator, a Goddard Space Center scientist/engineer assigned to assist students with their respective research projects. Lamontagne said students would typically meet for lunch and complete the work day.

After carpooling back to the house, they would enjoy a catered dinner, provided by a local business. Occasionally, speakers would give their presentations at the house and have dinner with the students and depart around 9:00 p.m. Lamontagne said he and the other students would stay awake and discuss various group projects until late into the evening—only to start again the next day.

“On average we spent only about 40-50 percent of any given work week actually in our labs. The rest of the time was spent on tours or talking with speakers,” he said.

“Over the summer we had more than 40 speakers ranging from scientists and engineers to astronauts, economists, politicians, policy makers, industry leaders and even Dan Goldin, the director of NASA.

“Some of our off-site tours included Langley Research Center, Wallops Island, Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Orbital Sciences Inc., the Pentagon, three trips to NASA Headquarters and a week at the Kennedy Space Center,” said Lamontagne.

The fast-paced curriculum allotted Lamontagne very little free time. “I had the pleasure of eating, breathing and living space. Most of the time this was at the expense of adequate sleep, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” he said.

Despite his busy schedule and the numerous trips



“I had the pleasure of eating, breathing and living space. Most of the time this was at the expense of adequate sleep, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything,”
—Cadet Rob Lamontagne

and speaking engagements, Lamontagne recommends the program to others who have a passion for space. “Enjoy every moment,” he said.

“The academy will probably be one of the greatest experiences of your life. The program has a lot to offer but, like everything, you get out exactly what you put in. The academy is focused on building leaders for the space industry—the program is looking for people who have demonstrated a passion for space,” Lamontagne said.

Lamontagne was

selected for the program largely because of his involvement with astrophysics and technology at the University of New Hampshire. “I wasn’t satisfied with just attending ROTC and my normal classes,” he said. “I wanted to become more involved, so I started working on the \$4 million Cooperative Astrophysics and Technology Satellite, that will probe the mysteries of X-ray and Gamma-ray bursts.”

“Rob is a bright, capable student who is extremely focused,” said Dave Forrest, research associate professor of the Space Science Center. “He has been an asset to CATSAT because he has a bit more experience than other students. His practical background really sets him apart.”

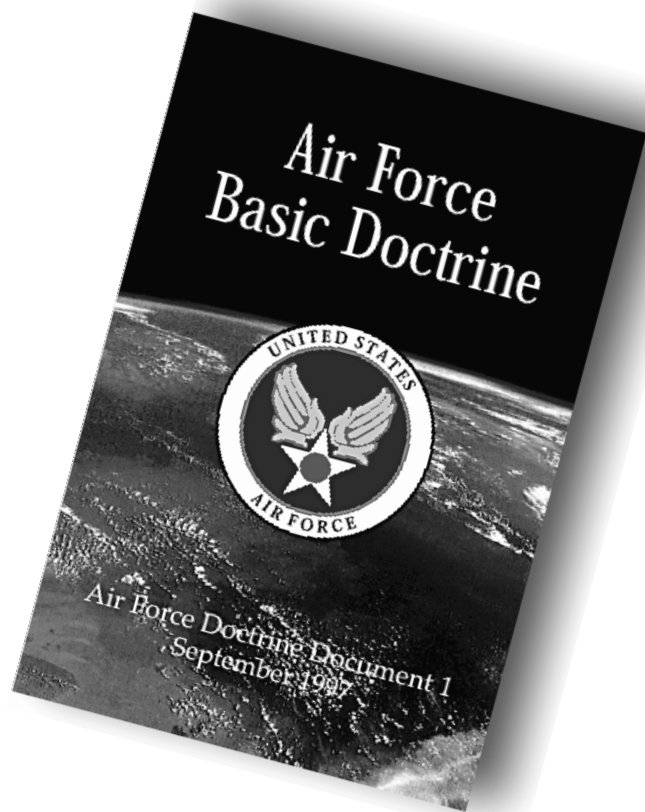
“He’s a real go-getter,” said Maj. Paul Fecteau, assistant professor of aerospace studies, Air Force ROTC Det. 475, UNH. “He’s always had a vision of what he wants to do and he has stuck with it. He has done the right things to prepare himself for the future, and that is how he has stayed on course. He doesn’t give up easily.”

Lamontagne’s said his secret to happiness is “where ever you are—be there.” He is a recent Air Force pilot selectee.

**By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barrett
AFOATS Public Affairs**

AIR FORCE DOCTRINE AND YOU

By Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Kinnan
Headquarters Air Force
Doctrine Center commander



Greetings future Air Force leaders! As you can see from the title, this article is about military doctrine, specifically Air Force doctrine. "What's that?" you're thinking, and "Why should I care?"

GLAD YOU ASKED

Air Force doctrine is the statement of fundamental beliefs—principles commonly accepted among airmen—about the proper use of aerospace power in warfighting. These ideas are written in 33 doctrine documents that discuss the warfighting capabilities the Air Force provides for our nation. The overarching capabilities and functions of the Air Force are written in Air Force Doctrine Document 1, *Basic Air Force Doctrine*. This is the best single source you'll find to read about the airmen's perspective on war, the tenets of aerospace power and the Air Force core competencies.

The rest of the doctrine publications, all part of the AFDD 2 series, make up Air Force operational

doctrine and discuss the Air Force's specific operational functions such as air warfare, space operations, combat support, information operations, air mobility and special operations. In short, the warfighting role of any career field you're interested in pursuing is presented in one of the 2-series documents.

WHY DOCTRINE IS IMPORTANT

Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, and I believe it's essential that present and future Air Force leaders have a clear understanding of our service's warfighting role. Since our doctrine explains exactly what the Air Force "brings to the fight," airmen who know and understand doctrine can clearly explain the important role aerospace power can and does have in national defense.

Moreover, individuals who study doctrine are prepared for command because doctrine guides them to the best methods for organizing and employing air forces in combat. So, understanding doctrine will help you see the Air Force's role in warfighting and the importance of your particular career field.

I don't want you to think that your own preparations for an Air Force career or the training you've

received in your ROTC program are lacking because you may not have previously received much information about Air Force doctrine.

Although the truths found in our doctrine date back to the first use of airpower in war, many of the documents now available to you have been produced in only the past two years through the doctrine development process that is staffed by my command, Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center, at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

HQ AFDC is the first organization in the history of the Air Force that's dedicated to developing basic and operational doctrine. The impressive showing of aerospace power in the Persian Gulf War was the key event that stirred Air Force leaders to realize a new emphasis on doctrine development was necessary. The growing importance of joint warfighting, as seen in our recent operations in Yugoslavia, is all the more reason that airmen need to improve their understanding of aerospace power doctrine.

Having a thorough knowledge of Air Force warfighting principles and capabilities makes us better able to explain to the other services how aerospace power should be used in joint operations.

Air Force doctrine—as it's written today and as it's reviewed and revised in the future—will have a direct effect on your career. The best example I can cite for you is the realignment of the Air Force into Aerospace Expeditionary Forces, the manner in which our service will go to war in the 21st Century.

Your time in service will be characterized by this new construct. Guess where you can go to read and learn about the fundamental principles, capabilities, functions and organization of the AEF? That's right; it's written in Air Force doctrine.

I hope by now I've whet your appetite and you're asking yourself, "Where can I find these doctrine documents?" HQ AFDC maintains a website at www.dctrine.af.mil. All of the documents are available to you with the click of a mouse. I encourage you to explore our pages and read, print out, or



Maj. Gen. Timothy Kinnan

download all the information that interests you. If you have any questions about doctrine or careers in the Air Force send us an e-mail. My staff, which includes officers from virtually every career field in the Air Force, will gladly answer your questions.

I believe an intelligent, career-long study of the beliefs and principles found in Air Force doctrine is essential for every airman's total professional development. Understanding doctrine is pivotal to comprehending the fundamental character and warfighting capabilities of aerospace

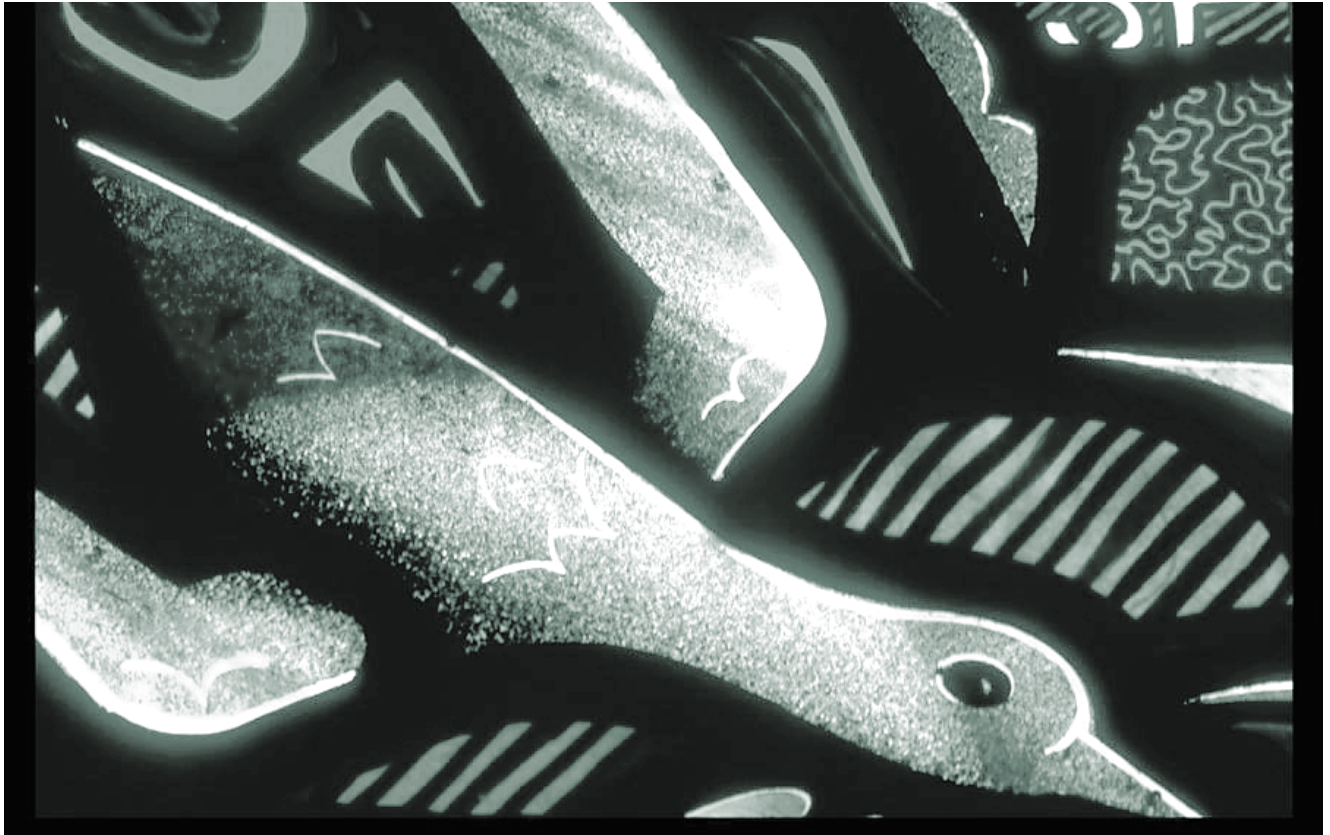
power. This is especially important as joint operations continue to dominate U.S. military affairs. A thorough understanding of aerospace power doctrine needs to be common currency among all airmen.

Good luck in your future Air Force careers.

Air Force Doctrine is based on:

- Principles of war
- Characteristics of Aerospace Power
- Tenets of Aerospace Power
- Airman's perspective
- Core Competencies
- Functions of the U.S. Air Force

Detachment holiday wish lists



Northwest Region

Det. 400

Michigan Technological University

- No Snow or cold weather, except during winter carnival
- F-16 rides on the weekends
- Happiness and Joy for all military members and their families over the Holiday Season

Det. 930

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

- A new building for our growing corps
- A fully funded corps field trip to Hickam AFB... Please!
- A safe and happy holiday for everyone involved in Air Force ROTC

Det. 910

University of Washington

- An F-15 with our name on it
- A detachment mascot
- Purple and gold flight suits

Det. 90

Colorado State University

- B-2 incentive rides
- Another day in the week to get caught up
- Mandatory PT with corresponding higher PFT scores (cadre wish)

Det. 420

University of Minnesota, Duluth

- We must never forget those who cannot celebrate the Christmas season with their families. Our Christmas wish is for everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season.

Det. 450

Montana State University

- Peace on Earth
- Goodwill to men
- Two feet of powder snow on the slopes

Det. 440

University of Missouri-Columbia

- To ensure the detachment grows with military pride and tradition, embracing

values such as honor, duty, patriotism and discipline.

- To ensure that each cadet excels physically, pursuing maximum physical potential.
- To become great leaders for the U.S. Air Force

Det. 905

Washington State University & University of Idaho

- A laser printer ("For Cadet Use Only")
- A pool table (a game cadets think they finally might be able to beat Major Foster at if Captain T. would ever leave the table so other people could play)
- New guidons for all the flights

Det. 925

University of Wisconsin at Madison

- A mess dress for Christmas. (Cadet Suzie Ovel AS300 Wausau, Wisc.)
- For Christmas, I wish someone would be kind enough to give me a Ferrari 550 Maranello, red of course. (Cadet Andrew Jaw AS100 Brookfield, Wisc.)

—My wish is that everyone could have eight full hours of a deep, peaceful sleep every night especially those preceding PT mornings! (Cadet Rachel Porubcan AS200 Jefferson, Wisc.)

Det. 855

Brigham Young University

—Wargaming software that can run on PCs
—A flight simulator
—Ten fighter incentive rides per semester

Det. 442

University of Missouri-Rolla

—Hike the Grand Canyon with my little brother (Cadet Shana Wilcox)
—To have three mandatory physical training sessions per week (Cadet Richard Feistel)
—To get through school and become a pilot in the U.S. Air Force (Cadet Dale Hurd)

Det. 465

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

—Win the Chancellor's Cup back from the Navy ROTC cadets by beating the Navy in a flag football game at Husker stadium
—Oh please, Santa, bring new computers
—The biggest recruiting class for next fall

Det. 220

Purdue University, Ind.

—Rose Bowl victory for Purdue
—Cessna 152 for the detachment

Det. 205

Southern Illinois University

—More money (If we can't get more money one staff sergeant said he'd settle for a roast beef sandwich.)
—A B-2 fly-over at the homecoming parade next year
—Clothing items, preferably flight suits

Det. 390

University of Michigan

—Sleep! When was the last time anyone

really had time for it?

—For the Michigan football team to turn things around and trample the Ohio State Buckeyes

—A set of technical sergeant stripes for our NCO

Northeast Region

Det. 720

Pennsylvania State University

—That more people would realize the importance of our military and get involved
—A safe journey home for all the deployed members of the Air Force so they can arrive home safely to loved ones
—For our eyes to be perfect, our PFT to be 500, and to be pulling Gs in the new F-22

Det. 340

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mass.

—Level the hills in Worcester to make it easier to walk around campus
—A simple explanation for solving differential equations
—An Air Force ROTC field training by correspondence course

Det. 730

University of Pittsburgh

—Y2K bunker
—Base visits to Europe
—A basketball team that can win at the Notre Dame tournament

Southwest Region

Det. 670

Oklahoma State University

—Continued growth in our cadet wing and more cadre personnel to handle that growth
—Continued success for our cadets at the categorization and Field Training selection boards

—Peace on earth

Det. 305

Louisiana Tech University

—More pilot slots and scholarships for cadets
—Our own mini F-16 go-cart.
—New computers with a PowerPoint clicker for Maj. Cheeks

Det. 675

University of Oklahoma

—20/20 vision so I can fly jets for the U.S. Air Force (Cadet Patrick T. George)
—An F-16 (Cadet Randell C. McCart)
—New skis and a pilot slot (Cadet Casey R. Cribley)

Det. 825

University of Texas-Austin

—An off-road vehicle, like a HUMVEE, that cadets may check out anytime
—A new crud table
—Snow on Christmas Day in Austin

Southeast Region

Det. 015

Tuskegee University, Ala.

—To learn and grow from our mistakes
—To retain 100 percent of our 120-member corps
—To have a blessed Christmas

Det. 890

University of Virginia

—Corps copier machine and working printers
—Pool table (for crud and such)
—Furnished living quarters at the detachment

Det. 585

Duke University, N.C.

—More drill equipment rifles, sabers, etc. and then a drill team
—An ROTC detachment that's a little closer to the center of campus—somewhere cadets can walk to without

soaking their dress blues on a warm day
—All traffic and parking officials at Duke to have compassion and mercy on students

Det. 005

Auburn University, Ala.

—A level parade field to eliminate cadets marching with 15 degrees of constant yaw
—An A-10 live-fire exercise at our next change of command ceremony
—A commercial-grade theater popcorn machine with an integral butter dispenser, automatic bagging capabilities and a CD player

Det. 607

Fayetteville State University

—Five brand-new Pentium III computers and five color laser printers in the cadet area
—Rejuvenation of the cadet area to include an entertainment center with surround sound, leather sofas and loveseats and a doorbell
—A 24-hour barber, cosmetologist, masseuse, manicurist on hand for those quick "hookups" before class

Det. 165

Georgia Tech

—To get confirmation for UPT and for people in the United States to be more patriotic (Cadet Biren Oberor)
—A huge shopping spree (Cadet Kathleen Knaack)
—For everyone to have a happy and safe holiday season (Cadet Matt Schafer)

Det. 010

University of Alabama

—A refrigerator, recliner and cable television for each cadre office
—Never-ending supply of money in the cadet fund
—To be the best detachment ever

Det. 172

Valdosta State University, Ga.

—Jerseys for intramural sports
—Statue of an F-16
—Gold bars for the gold bar box



Twelve days of Christmas

By Det. 550

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, N.Y.

—On the first day of Christmas Headquarters gave to me, an approved 22 package
—On the second day of Christmas HQ gave to me, two turbo jets...
—On the third day of Christmas HQ gave to me, three French dressings for my MREs...
—On the fourth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, four calling cards since we don't have DSN...
—On the fifth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, five gold bars to clean up the holiday mess...
—On the sixth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, six students a-praying (final exams you know)...
—On the seventh day of Christmas HQ gave to me, seven midshipmen a-swimming (they saw the light)...
—On the eighth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, eight maids a-cleaning (to help the gold bars)...
—On the ninth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, nine couples dancing (at the military ball)...
—On the tenth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, 10 ADD lieutenants a-weeping (ROTC is over)...
—On the eleventh day of Christmas HQ gave to me, 11 cadets a-wiping (the snow off their cars)...
—On the twelfth day of Christmas HQ gave to me, 12 APAS humming (the semester is over)...

Around the Nation



(Above right) Det. 910 Cadet Laura Nishi happily mans the recruiting booth at the Seattle University Street Fair.



Det. 175 cadets protect the "rock" through the night from ROTC flights, prior to the AF/Army ROTC Showdown.

Northwest Region

Det. 685

Oregon State University

Along with trying out the new physical fitness test, the Beavers had the opportunity of hearing from Lt. Col. Randy Kee, a Det. 685 alumnus.

It was a dark and chilly morning when Det. 685 headed out for its first taste of the new PFT. Early indications of fall left temperatures low, but the motivation of the wing was high. Much of the excitement was due to the fact that the words "pull-ups" and "600 yard dash" were no longer part of the PFT vocabulary.

Led by Cadet Kevin Larson, many cadets were already nearing or attaining maximum scores. Getting up so early and facing the bitter cold is an indication of the pride these cadets have in their detachment.

Also showing his pride in Det. 685 was Kee, who visited OSU to pass on some things that he has learned as an officer in the Air Force. His presentation, entitled "What I Wish I Had Known," gave cadets a glimpse of what to expect when they become officers. The discussion primarily dealt with how to balance family and a career in the Air Force. Kee has plenty of experience on the subject, and had a lot to share with the cadets. He and his wife Kim, who have been married since 1984, are the

proud parents of three children.

Kee stressed the importance of making time for family. He suggested that whenever there is an opportunity to be with family, or to bring your family with you on assignment or temporary duty, you should take advantage of that opportunity.

Det 910, University of Washington

Recently, cadets from Det 910 at the University of Washington, Det 695 at the University of Portland and Det 895 at Central Washington University joined up at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., for an annual cadet orientation. A total of 75 cadets attended the fun-filled weekend.

Cadets were treated to a tour of a C-141 Starlifter in the aircraft maintenance area where they viewed the aircraft from an unlikely position—standing 39 feet above the tail on scaffolding. They also saw the ins and outs of a C-17 Globemaster III, the McChord Air Museum and the K-9 unit. At the K-9 unit, they saw simulated drug searches and an attack a dummy's arm on command.

The second day started with a 2.5-mile warrior run with the new professor of aerospace studies, Col. David A. Reinholz, leaving the cadets pumped and ready to go for McChord's challenging confidence course. AS300 Cadet Mac Hogland said, "The confidence

course was the best part of the weekend, instilling a sense of teamwork and allowing everyone the opportunity to get to know each other."

"All the upperclassmen showed us what teamwork was all about, and it was a really neat experience," stated freshman Cadet Tracy Hinkelman.

The cadets rounded out the weekend with an all detachment picnic and an exciting, yet friendly competition in football, Ultimate Frisbee and volleyball.

Det. 175 University of Hawaii

Thanks to several special events scheduled in October, cadets experienced the real Air Force. Thirty cadets participated in three different KC-135 incentive flights, to include F-18 and B-1 air refueling missions. In addition, 36 cadets participated in a chemical warfare training class, presented by the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron's Readiness Flight at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Cadets received several hours of classroom training then experienced the reality of chemical warfare by going through the gas-training chamber—something the cadets will never forget.

In addition, 13 officers from Hickam AFB attended the non-rated officer career day, and cadets were able to learn more about Air Force careers, aside from being a pilot or navigator, available to them as future officers.

Det. 190
University Of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign

For cadets, commissioning is one of the most memorable days that you can go through, but what makes a memorable day unforgettable? Being sworn in by the Chief of Staff of your own service. The cadets had that honor and privilege of meeting Gen. Michael Ryan when he made an appearance in Champaign-Urbana. After pinning on the captain bars to 1st Lt. Jose Aragon, Ryan proceeded to not only speak at the commissioning ceremony, but he also swore in the new 2nd lieutenants from the detachment.

More recently, retired Air Force Col. J.D. Wetterling visited the detachment on a tour to promote his book *Son of Thunder*. Placing the normally raucous room 101 under a trance, he gave the cadets a view of the past and a vision of the future.

Det. 440
University of Missouri-
Columbia

The detachment has obtained a \$10,000 grant to build a new Learning Center to benefit the cadets of the Flying Tiger Wing. This Learning Center will include new computers loaded with tutorial software for courses in math, science and foreign languages. In addition to the software, there are also tutorial books and other publications that will heighten the learning process.

Northeast Region

Detachment 535
Syracuse University, N.Y.

Despite steady rain, this year's Army 10-Miler race kicked off Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C. Fortunately, the weather didn't discourage the 12,451 runners that eventually crossed the finish line. Among them was Det. 535, which entered four teams with the detachment's "Crush 01" coming in as

the fastest Air Force ROTC team in the race while finishing 7th for all ROTC units.

Prior to the race, the detachment toured the Pentagon, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Lincoln Memorial and watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The solemn cemetery experience was a moving one for the 26 cadets in attendance as it illuminated sacrifices made by military men and women from past conflicts.

The trip concluded the following day as the four teams finishing the Army-10-Miler caravanned back to Syracuse University to prepare for next year's race.

Det. 340
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute, Mass.

Cadet volunteers piled into a government van for a road trip to the Engagement Skills Trainer, operated by the Massachusetts National Guard, Oct. 3 at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, Mass. Following a class on basic firearms, conducted by National Guard instructors, the cadets tested their new combat skills on the trainer, which features a number of quick-reaction, "shoot or don't shoot" video scenarios.

The cadets never failed to shoot the video criminals; however, judging by the high number of innocent civilians they also blew away, additional training is definitely required.

Twelve cadets from the Worcester Air Force ROTC Senior Squadron of the Massachusetts Civil Air Patrol spent the day receiving basic land navigation training Oct. 9 at the state park adjacent to the Worcester Airport.

A videotape record of the day's activities, appropriately labeled the "Worcester Blair Witch Project," is forthcoming.

However, unlike the popular movie, all the Air Force ROTC cadets returned home safely from their day lost in the woods.

Det. 128 and Det. 330
University of Delaware and
University of Maryland

Detachments 128 and 330 recently held a fundraiser at the University of Maryland football stadium. Both detachments were tasked with picking up trash left from the previous day's football game. More than 60 cadets from both detachments spent four hours cleaning up the stadium.

When the cleaning was done, cadets enjoyed a healthy serving of pizza and participated in a friendly game of Ultimate Frisbee. The final score was—you guessed it—a tie.



Cadets Ryan Hoback, Det. 128 wing commander; Max Vollkommer, Det. 128 vice commander; Pam Cesen, Det. 330 wing commander; and Bill Wilkinson, Det. 330 vice commander take time for picture of a day they won't soon forget.

Det. 730
University of Pittsburgh,
Penn.
Canadian Backpacking Trip

This summer, Cadet Carmen Carreras had one of the most amazing experiences of her life when she spent a month backpacking through the Pelle Mountains in the Yukon, Canada.

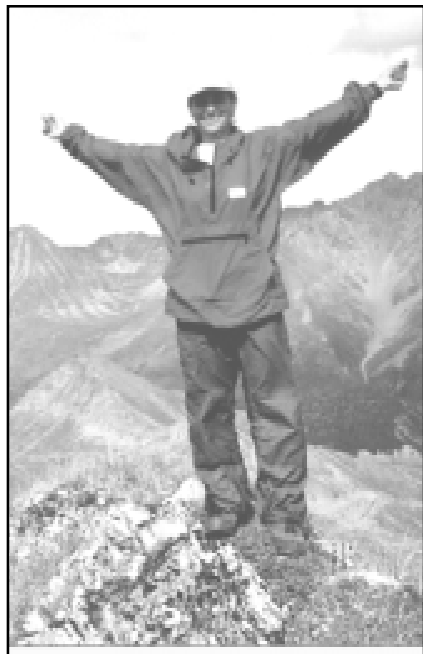
The trip, run by the National Outdoor Leadership School, included 14 students from around the country and three in-

structors from around the world. As the month progressed, the students experienced weather varying from snow showers and constant rain to endless blue skies and 80-degree temperatures. The days' activities not only focused on hiking, but also included classes ranging from basic camping skills and navigation to first-aid and leadership classes.

The final four days of the trip were spent in small groups of seven without instructors. According to Carreras, the final weekend presented many new challenges such as managing group conflicts without instructors and encountering three very large grizzly bears. "I highly recommend the trip to anyone who enjoys challenging himself or herself physically and mentally and loves the outdoors," she said.

Project Pittsburgh

Cleaning up the Pittsburgh area was the focus for cadet volunteers participating in the University of Pittsburgh-sponsored "Pittsburgh Project" Oct. 16. The cadets received bagels and doughnuts plus a t-shirt for their help in picking up trash on the streets and lawns.



Cadet Carmen Carreras on top of the Pelle Mountains in the Yukon, Canada. (Photo by Cadet Jasmine Criswell)



Det. 560 Manhattan College, N.Y.

Killed in Action Memorial Ceremony for Alumni

The detachment conducted a memorial service for alumni killed in action during the Vietnam War Oct. 7. The ceremony, held on Manhattan College's campus, coincided with the unveiling of a memorial plaque dedicated to those killed in action.

Detachment personnel, to include active-duty cadre and the entire Corps of Cadets, conducted the ceremony. Family members of the fallen officers, Brother Thomas Scanlon, the Manhattan College President, Manhattan College students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the Riverdale community attended.

Col. Stetson Siler, Det. 560 commander, opened the ceremony with a short speech and Cadet Honor Guard posted the flags and presented a wreath. Brother Scanlon then spoke of the military's long history and association with Manhattan College, dating back to World War II.

Detachment alumni and spoke about

the camaraderie and esprit de corps they all felt during their college and Air Force ROTC days. The alumni's selfless and charitable donations enabled the detachment to purchase memorial plaque and Manhattan College generously funded the plaque's installation.

Concluding the ceremony, Capt. Shannon O'Harren, an assistant professor of Aerospace Studies, read the fallen warriors' names as the cadets laid a wreath on the new memorial.

Following the role call of honor, a Manhattan College security department member played taps on a trumpet and a member of the Manhattan College Bagpipe Band, played "Amazing Grace" to end the ceremony. Both individuals generously volunteered their time and effort to enrich the memorial service.

Following the ceremony, the detachment hosted a reception for attendees. Maj. Gen. Arthur Lichte, the highest ranking Manhattan College alumnus, flew in from Washington, D.C., to attend the event and spent much of the evening reminiscing with fellow alumni and speaking with the ROTC cadets.

All in all, it was a memorable and moving service for all who attended.

Southwest Region

Det. 305

Louisiana Tech University

During the past six months, the detachment has led refurbishing efforts for both historical Air Force displays on campus.

In May, cadets completed a facelift of a T-33 that has been on a pedestal at Tech since March 1963.

"The plane is a unique symbol of the relationship between the Air Force and the university," said Col. Bob Mims, Det. 305 commander.

The Arnold Air Society led the effort, but was assisted by other cadets, cadre and a professional painter. ROTC members used about \$1,000 of their own money and about 1,000 man-hours. University President Dan Reneau attended a ceremony marking the completion of the 1952 jet, which was used for pilot training more than 35 years ago.

In October the detachment, with the help of a crew of five from Kelly Air Force Base's Air Logistics Center, Texas, refurbished a Minuteman II missile located in front of Caruthers Hall. The crew sanded off rust, cleaned the concrete base and painted the 60-foot tall intercontinental ballistic missile, which was used for training during the Cold War, Mims said.

The demilitarized missile and T-33 are on permanent loan from the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Det. 670

Oklahoma State University

How often do you get the chance to deface public property—in broad daylight—with the city's blessing?

Cadets were recently supplied orange and white paint and encouraged to paint a major city street that borders the OSU campus as part of the school's homecoming week festivities. Along with other OSU students from other campus organizations, cadets were asked to paint the town—or at least the streets—as a

way to help build campus spirit so returning alumni could see the students' messages of school pride.



Det. 670 Cadets Scott Cline and Jaclyn Tennies apply finishing touches to the "F" in AFROTC that they painted on University Avenue in Stillwater, Okla.

Det. 825

University of Texas, Austin "Longhorn for a Day"

Forty high school seniors were invited to attend the detachment's annual "Longhorn for a Day," a day-long recruiting event that allows high school seniors to interact with ROTC cadets. The students participated in a group leadership problem, played Crud with the cadets and enjoyed lunch at Jester Cafeteria on campus.

In addition, an ROTC and scholarship presentation was provided. LFAD provides high school seniors an insight to ROTC as well as important information on how to obtain a scholarship. Cadet Kristen Callaghan, the point of contact for the event, noted all the high school seniors had a good time and many appreciated the opportunity to learn about Air Force ROTC and the college scholarship program.

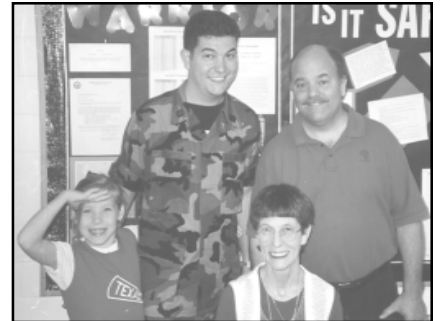
Open House

The detachment began a new tradition Oct. 2 by holding an open house for ROTC parents. This program was coordinated with university-wide Parents' Weekend activities. The event was a tremendous success and hopefully will be held annually for years to come.

"This program was a huge success

for Det. 825, and I'm proud to be associated with the beginning of a new tradition," said Cadet Samuel Duff, special projects officer.

More than 50 parents attended the event. Parents were given a building tour, brief speeches by the senior cadet wing leadership and a question-and-answer session.



Det. 825 Cadet Joel Harper and his family come together on Parents' Day.

Southeast Region

Det 290

University of Kentucky

Retired Gen. Colin Powell visited Lexington, Ky., Oct. 6 for an Alzheimer's disease research fundraising dinner at the University of Kentucky. Col. Steve Parker, Det. 290 professor of aerospace studies, had the honor of introducing General Powell while Cadet Stephanie Wyatt had the opportunity of a lifetime.

Wyatt attended the event believing she would be an escort for distinguished visitors, but instead, she was asked to serve as a personal aide to Powell for the evening.

First, she was asked to escort him from his hotel room to the dinner. Then, the general asked her to hold his cellular phone, as he was expecting a call from the White House. After posing for pictures with him, she escorted him to his car for his departure.

According to Wyatt, "It was definitely an exciting opportunity that I will always remember. It's not often you

volunteer to be an escort at a dinner and end up being an aide to one of the true heroes of our time, General Colin Powell."



(From left to right) Retired Gen. Colin Powell poses with Cadet Stephanie Wyatt and Col. Steve Parker.

Det. 157

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.

Cadets attended the annual Aerospace Power Demonstration offered by Eglin Air Force Base's Air Armament Center in Fort Walton Beach, Florida Oct. 29.

In attendance were Carol Dibattiste, the current undersecretary of the Air Force, and other high-ranking officials, base personnel, and local congressmen. More than 1,300 students from Maxwell, AFB, Ala. were in the stands along with ROTC students from across the state of Florida.

The demonstration included an assortment of the best aircraft in the Air Force such as the B-2 Spirit, B-52 Stratofortress, F-117A Nighthawk, F-15 Eagle, F-16 Falcon and A-10 Thunderbolt II. These aircraft were combined to illustrate the Air Force's outstanding ability to wage combat anywhere in the world, at any time.

It was quite an honor to be able to attend this event.

Det. 890

University of Virginia

The University of Virginia hosted its 16th Annual Minority Career Day Reception Oct. 25.

The guest speaker was Ralph Sampson, a 1983 UVA graduate and former NBA player for the Houston Rockets. Capt. Eunice Ciskowski and 2nd Lt. Kimberly Layne, Det. 890 cadre members, represented the Air Force ROTC program.

It was an excellent opportunity to spread the word to the many qualified minority students who attended the event that the U.S. Air Force is actively seeking employees in all career fields.



(From left to right) Back row: Retired Army Lt. Col. Claude Vann, III, Ralph Sampson

Front row: Marine Capt. Kurt Gordon; Air Force 2nd Lt. Kimberly Layne; Air Force Capt. Eunice Ciskowski; Marine Capt. John Ross and Marine Capt. Richard Walker

**Cadets:
Don't forget,
Around the Nation
articles are due
by the first of the
month.**

How to deal with holiday stress

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose... Yes, it's that time, again. The holidays.

Time to visit family and friends. Time to stay up late. Time to overeat, overspend, and overtax one's energy reserves. We're talking stress time. Holidays are among the top stressors in one's life because of all the changes in normal routine such as those above, said Col. (Dr.) Karl O. Moe, chairman of the psychology department at the Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

If not dealt with, stress can cause the body to become overly tense, which can lead to headaches, a stiff neck, high blood pressure, an upset stomach or a variety of other minor and major ills.

But there is good news, said Moe. People can do several things to reduce their stress levels, now and after the holidays. These include:

- Social support. "Spend time with people you like. There needs to be a balance between the time you spend with people 'you have to be around' and those you want to be with," said Moe

- Enjoy life. "Take time off and do some of the things you really like doing."

- Adjust expectations. "Holidays don't have to be perfect," said Moe.

- Exercise, diet and sleep. Exercise doesn't have to be aerobic, Moe said. "Just a 20-minute walk at the end of the day is a very good stress buster."

- As for rest, "Get as much as possible," he said. "If you stay up late on New Year's Eve, sleep late the next day or go to bed early."

Of course, there are some people who thrive around the holidays. For them, Moe advised: "Enjoy yourself. If you don't feel stressed, don't worry about it."

—By Master Sgt. Merrie Schilter Lowe, Air Force News Service

The Night Before Christmas

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house, made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give,
And to see just who, in this home did live.*

*I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures, of far distant lands.*

*With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought, came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.*

*The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor, in this one-bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured, a United States soldier.*

*Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read,
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families, that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers, who were willing to fight.*

*Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate, a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom, each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.*

*I couldn't help wonder, how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
The very thought, brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.*

*The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice.
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."*

*The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.*

*I didn't want to leave, on that cold, dark, night,
This Guardian of Honor, so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, and with a voice soft and pure
Whispered, "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day; all is secure."*

*One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.*

By Maj. Bruce Lovely, adapted from a similar anonymous poem.

Core Values

(Integrity, Service, Excellence)

I am always surprised when I listen to the cadets in the wing talk about our Air Force Core Values. I am sure that every cadet can list three core values and properly respond when questioned by cadre. But I wonder if they understand why we have these values.

These values set the foundations for our professional organization. You'll notice I didn't say job. The Air Force is not a job. Our profession is entrusted with the safety and well being of the American people and they expect and deserve more out of us than the general population. That is why these core values are important.

Integrity insures that we do the right thing. Gen. Ronald Fogleman said, "Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking." This is important, but it is just as important to do the right thing when people are looking. What if the right thing is not what your boss wants? What if it's not what your peers want? What if it's not good for you or your career? Can you make the right decision when the answers to these questions are not the ones that are good for you personally? Some have not and the results have been the loss of life and valuable equipment. Some have failed and caused the nation to distrust us. Some have failed and we will never know the repercussions. Integrity is the foundation of our profession.

"Service before self" ensures the right thing gets done. Gen. George Butler said, "Work hard but for the right reasons." The right reason is to fulfill the mission. The mission does not have to be an Air Force one. It could be a family mission, community mission, church mission, friend mission or any other kind of mission, but you'll notice it's not a "me" mission. In our profession service comes before the individual. Many brave people have sacrificed for us to be free. These sacrifices include their lives. They placed service to nation and to others before themselves. Can you say that? Is the ball game or the movie a higher priority than service to the others in your life?

Excellence in all that we do insures the right thing gets done well. Gen. George Patton said, "If I do my full duty, the rest will take care of itself." Excellence in carrying out his duty ensured that attention to detail was always taken. This excellence resulted in our profession being viewed as experts in all that we do. We can't afford losses in a financially constrained world, but more important we can't afford the loss of the respect of the American people. And we will lose their respect if we do not instill excellence. As former Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall said, "Because we are authorized to act on behalf of our entire society, then the obligation to excel is a moral obligation for members of a professional military force."

So why do we stress core values? Because professionals have high standards and our core values are these standards. The next time you are asked to recite the core values, take time to think about they mean. Knowing the words is not the important thing, knowing what they mean and stand for is.

—Col. Tony Daniels, Det. 390, University of Michigan, commander